

Tales from DalesRail
Swaledale – A walk from Muker to Gunnerside
John Barnes

DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walks, fascinating anecdotes and pictures about DalesRail. Please send them to richard.watts.crl@gmail.com or Simon Clarke at simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com.

Muker

I like this description: *“It lies in a green hollow with the Swale running round it, and in relation to the fells it looks like a toy village in one piece, which has been dropped on a green carpet, a village one can hold in the palm of one's hand. It has no story I can find and no special charm yet its situation is appealing”.*

Muker is the starting point for one of the many lovely walks I like to do in Swaledale and is accessed from one of the DalesRail coach connections.



Extending the reach of DalesRail to Swaledale and Wensleydale.

Taking the path north of Muker and crossing the river at Rampsholme Bridge I continue to Fair Yew End and climb up to Swinner Gill to the footbridge at Swinner Gill Lead Mines. Here is Swinner Gill Kirk where a cave provided a meeting place for Nonconformists in the seventeenth century. I find the climb up Swinner Gill to be most appealing. The path continues up East Grain on to the moors at Lownathwaite where the evidence of lead mining is all around with extensive views of the surrounding countryside. Continuing to Lownathwaite Mea I drop into Gunnerside Gill. From here I may follow Gunnerside Beck to Gunnerside, a lovely path all the way. This makes the walk 7 miles. Alternatively, I may take a more strenuous

route and take the path to Bunton Hush – which is an easy scramble – and continue to Old Gang Mines. Lead mining activity is all around here. I now take the path at Moor House and continue to Gunnerside across a well-tended grouse moor via Slade Head. This makes the walk 8.5 miles.



Two views of Swinner Gill